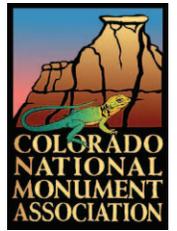




COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT PRESENTS 2012 SPRING WALKS AND TALKS



*Denotes Limited Space – Pre-Registration is required. Call 970-858-3617 ext. 300

For all hikes, please be prepared with sturdy shoes or boots, water, snacks, sunscreen and insect repellent.
www.nps.gov/colm



*Spring Equinox Hike

Tuesday, March 20 9am-2pm

Celebrate the first day of spring by taking a hike! Explore the unmaintained route along the Bench with Park Ranger Briana. 4 miles, moderate terrain. Pre-registration required.



It's Alive!

Sunday, March 25 2-3pm at Saddlehorn Visitor Center

Join Dr. Aparna Palmer from Colorado Mesa University for a short walk on the Alcove Nature Trail to learn about biological soil crust followed by an indoor presentation on the microscopic organisms that call the crust home. Microscopes will be available to get a close up view of these amazing critters!



*Red and Columbus Canyons Hike

Wednesday, April 4 9am-2pm

Take a hike off the beaten path with Park Ranger Annie to explore the geology, ecology, and human history of these two remote canyons. 5 miles, strenuous terrain. Pre-registration required.



*Upper Ute Canyon Hike

Thursday, April 12 & Saturday, April 14 8:30am-2pm

Visit a unique pocket of Ute Canyon with geologist Don Regan and biologist John Moore to explore its spring flora, fauna, and geology. This 3-4 mile strenuous hike includes an 800 ft. elevation gain along a primitive unmaintained trail. Hiking boots strongly recommended. Pre-registration required.



National Park Week (Fee Free Days) April 21-29th



*Making Poems on the Monument

Saturday, April 21 9-11am

Sponsored by the Western Colorado Writers' Forum, this workshop will be given by writer Danny Rosen who has worked as a teacher, geologist, and director of the Western Sky Planetarium. Participants will be introduced to the concept of geologic time, and to ways in which reading and making poems can become a seamless part of daily existence. Bring writing material and be prepared to take a short walk, rain or shine. Pre-Registration is required. www.westerncoloradowriters.org



Exploring Echo Canyon – A Family Fun Hike

Saturday, April 21 1-3pm at Devils Kitchen Picnic Area

Meet at Devil's Kitchen Picnic Area and join Ranger Cary Atwood on a family friendly hike into Echo Canyon. No registration is necessary. Bring water for this 3 mile round-trip hike.



Saddlehorn Star Viewing

Saturdays: April 21, May 19 & June 23

Dusk to 10pm at Saddlehorn Picnic Area

Join the Western Colorado Astronomy Club for a tour of the night sky. Weather permitting; you will see planets, constellations, star forming nebulae, and clusters. Meet in the Saddlehorn picnic area parking lot just after sunset. Telescopes available. www.wcacastronomy.org



*Birding for Beginners

Saturday, April 28 8-10am

Bring binoculars and join retired NPS resource specialist Dave Price to learn basic techniques for field guides and identifying birds. Practice these skills on a short hike in No Thoroughfare Canyon. Pre-registration required.



Echoes to the Sunset

Saturday, April 28 6:30-8pm at Saddlehorn Amphitheater

Come enjoy the beauty of the Monument echoed by the voice of a flute. Local Artist Tony Babbit will share his passion of playing Native American style music and his knowledge of flute history and legends. Tony was featured on the soundtrack of Rocky Mtn. PBS's documentary, *John Otto's Dream*.



***Meet the Locals: A Native Plant Hike**

Tuesday, May 1 & Monday, May 7

8:30am-12:30pm

Join Cece MacVittie a "Native Plant Master" to investigate a wide variety of plants that reside in the Monument. Approximately 2 miles. Pre-registration required.



Historic Fruita

Sunday, May 20

2-3pm at Saddlehorn Visitor Center

Local authors Steve and Denise Hight will share some of the stories they discovered while researching for their historic book about Fruita. Bring your curiosity. You may want to bring your own copy of the book along to have it signed by the authors or purchase a copy at the Visitor Center.



***Picture Perfect**

Monday, May 21 & Saturday, May 26

7-8pm

Bring your camera and tripod to pick-up some tips from local photographer and Grand Valley native Jeff Kochevar. Capturing a sunset on the Monument is worth 1,000 words! Pre-registration required.



***Cactus Walk along the Old Gordon Trail**

Thursday, May 24 & Saturday, May 26

9:30am- 12:30pm

Join "Cactus Man" Don Campbell for this favorite annual cactus walk. Learn how to identify a variety of cacti, succulents, and other desert plants. 2 miles, 500 ft. elevation gain. Pre-registration required.



Transit of Venus

Tuesday, June 5

4:30-6pm at Saddlehorn Visitor Center

A once in a lifetime opportunity! Venus will pass in front of the sun. This won't happen again until 2117! Come get a closer view through a telescope at the Visitor Center.



Colorado National Monument Association Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 5

6pm at Fruita Community Center

Come listen to filmmaker Greg Mikolaj, the guest speaker at CNMA's annual meeting. Bring your friends and neighbors to celebrate CNMA's accomplishments of the past year, hear about future goals, and unveil the 2013 calendar.



Get Outdoors Day – A Fee Free Day! Saturday, June 9

Check the website for special ranger programs.



Centennial Band Concert at Devils Kitchen Picnic Area

Saturday, June 9

6:00-7:30pm**

Bring lawn chairs and a picnic for this annual concert by Grand Junction's own Centennial Band.

Enjoy an evening of rousing marches and favorite music in a natural red rock amphitheater.

Due to limited parking, a shuttle will be provided. (Disabled parking only at Devils Kitchen Picnic Area.)

**Park at Wingate Elementary School. Shuttles will run from 5:15-6:00pm and after the concert.



Dinosaur Train Nature Tracker Event

Saturday, June 30 9:00am-3:00pm

The Monument is proud to partner with the Museum of Western Colorado, Rocky Mountain PBS, and the Bureau of Land Management to host a special event. From 9am-Noon, join us for activities at the Fruita Paleo Area where kids can become a certified Nature Tracker. The museum will be showing episodes of PBS's hit show "Dinosaur Train" on the hour from 10am-3pm.

More info: www.museumofwesternco.com

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All events are sponsored by the National Park Service at Colorado National Monument. Support is provided by Colorado National Monument Association, a 501(C)(3) nonprofit educational organization which helps support educational, scientific, historical, and research projects at Colorado National Monument. All programs are open to the public and are free of charge.

Participants on hikes will be required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk liability waiver. There is an entrance fee of \$10 per vehicle to Colorado National Monument.